



What's Happening at Blue Marsh Lake?

US Army Corps of Engineers

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Get Outdoors and Move!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Blue Marsh Lake is joining the effort to encourage people to get outdoors and move. Our public parks, whether it be local, County, State or Federal, offer endless recreational opportunities. Help us by encouraging friends and family to take a break from that computer or high-tech games and get outdoors and pay a visit to one of the many parks that are in Berks and surrounding counties.

Blue Marsh Lake is open throughout the year. Fall is a great time to join our hawk watch at the State Hill Boat

Launch Vista, or to go kayaking out on the lake. The cooler weather also brings out trail users. If it is challenges you like, visit our multi-use trail, which loops around the entire lake. The multi-use trail is open to foot use, mountain bike and horseback riding. There are numerous nature trails for those who like something a little tamer. Nature trails are open to foot use only. No motorized vehicles are permitted on any of our trails.

Hunting is allowed throughout Blue Marsh, so wear orange. If you want to avoid hunters, hike on Sunday or visit either the Great Oak

or Eyes of the Eagle Nature Trails, which are located in the Dry Brooks Day Use Area (hunting is not permitted in our developed areas).

Fishing and boating are also very popular activities at the lake. The lake is a bit challenging to fish, but if you are lucky you might catch a "keeper!"

When engaging in a recreational activity please do so safely. Wear your life jacket when on the lake. And wear that helmet when horseback or bike riding. So get out and move at Blue Marsh Lake!



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Programs

Doggy Days at Blue Marsh Lake: Saturday November 6, 9:00 a.m. at Parking Lot "C" of the Day Use Area

Holiday Nature Craft Workshop: Saturday November 20, 10:00 a.m. at the Blue Marsh Lake Conference Center

Bird Walk: Wednesday December 8. Meet at the Visitor Center

Uncle Sam Buys the C&D Canal Operations

The Federal government purchased the canal in 1919 for \$2.5 million. They designated it as the "Intra-coastal Waterway Delaware River to Chesapeake Bay, Delaware and Maryland." The canal included six bridges and a railroad span that

was owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad. These bridges were replaced during the 1920's with four vertical lift spans and a new railroad bridge.

Responsibility for operating, maintaining and improving the canal was assigned to the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington (Delaware) District. The eastern entrance at Delaware City had been relocated several miles south at Reedy Point, Delaware in 1927. All of the locks, except for the one at Delaware City, were

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2010-2011 Hunting Seasons

Small Game

Squirrel- Oct. 16-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23, Dec. 27-Feb 5, (6 daily, 12 possession).

Rabbit- Oct. 23-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23, Dec. 27-Feb 26, (4 daily, 8 possession).

Pheasant- Oct. 23-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23, Dec. 27-Feb 5, (2 daily, 4 possession).

Deer

Archery- Oct 2-Nov. 13, Dec 27-Jan 15,

Gun- Nov 29-Dec 11

Flintlock- Dec 27-Jan 15

* One antlered deer may be taken per license year and one antlerless deer with each required antlerless license may be taken*

Furbearer

Coyote- no closed season, unlimited

Raccoon and Foxes- Oct 23-Feb 19. Unlimited

Opossum, Skunk, and Weasel- No closed season, except Sundays and during spring gobbler season.

Trapping

Mink and Muskrat- Nov 20-Jan 9, unlimited

Coyote, Foxes, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk, and Weasel- Oct 24-Feb 20. no limit.

Coyote and Fox- (cable restraints) Dec 26-Feb 20. No Limit. Participants must pass cable restraint certification course.

*** For expanded hunting seasons, bag limits, and oranges requirements please refer to the Pennsylvania Game Commission at www.pgc.state.pa.us**

2010 Fall Programs

Doggy Days at Blue Marsh Lake, November 6, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Parking Lot "C" Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Bring your canine companions with you for a walk along the Great Oak Nature Trail. This trail is located in a "No Hunting Area." Both you and your dog can socialize with other dog lovers, and learn some interesting wildlife facts. Don't forget drinking water for both you and your four-

legged buddy! Dogs must be leashed.

Holiday Nature Craft Workshop November 20, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at the Blue Marsh Lake Conference Center: A variety of natural materials can be used make creative decorations. Wreaths, candle holders, and decorations for trees are just some of the ornaments we might create at this workshop. You can also make out-

door decorations/feeders for the wildlife! Join us for this fun and creative session. All materials will be supplied.

Bird Walk, December 8, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., meet at the Visitor Center: Join local birding expert, Joan Silagy, for a guided bird walk. We will begin our birding adventure at the Visitor Center. Dress for the weather, and don't forget your binoculars!

Uncle Sam Buys the C&D Canal Operations, cont. from page 1

removed, and the canal was converted to a sea-level operation at 12 feet deep and 90 feet wide. The improvements cost \$10 million. Two stone jetties at the new eastern entrance were completed in 1926.

There was great celebration when the "new" canal opened in May 1927. However, plans were already underway for further expansion because of the increasing sizes of ships and cargo. The Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers, took over operation of the canal in 1933. Improvements were made to the channel between 1935 and 1938. It was deepened to 27 feet and widened to 250 feet, resulting in a cost of \$13 million. The project was expanded to include a federal navigation channel 27 feet deep and 400 feet wide for approximately 26 miles in the Upper Chesapeake Bay, from the Elk River to Poole's Island.



C&D Canal, Chesapeake City, MD

Fall Fun Word Search

BIKING COLORS FISHING
HALLOWEEN HIKING HUNTING
LEAVES PUMPKINS RAKING

G N I K I B T H A P
G N I K A R L S H U
A T M X K M Q E I M
G N I T N U H V K P
P A U R U S G A I K
H A L L O W E E N I
X J G X I H L L G N
C O L O R S Q I Y S
Q T A A J Z H L J N
F I S H I N G Q T P

Army Reserve Work

Over the past few years Blue Marsh Lake has worked in cooperation with a local Army reserve unit. The partnership makes sense because, as many of you already know Blue Marsh is an entity of the Department of the Army

The Reserves have done projects such as trail grading, parking lot construction, and beach erosion control. In exchange for the free labor, the young soldiers get the much needed equipment training they require for future operations overseas.

Beside the equipment operation, the Army Reserves use Blue Marsh for camping, physical fitness testing, and maneuvers. The partnership has been a win-win situation.



Record Low Pool

On September 27, 2010 the lake level at Blue Marsh had dropped to a record low pool of 281.82 feet above sea level. This was due to the drought conditions in the lower Delaware River Basin. The second purpose of Blue Marsh is water supply and the Delaware River Basin Commission called on Blue Marsh to make water releases

to maintain the flow of the river at Trenton, and to aid in keeping the salt line away from drinking water intakes.

In the process of satisfying our water supply objectives, the lake had to close to power boating and swimming at the beach due to low water levels. A timely tropical depression dumped over 6 inches of

rain on Berks County and allowed us to fully open to recreation one week later.



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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Philadelphia District**

A Look at the Raccoon

The common raccoon can range in size from 28-38 inches and can weigh 10-30 pounds. Males are generally larger and heavier than females. The fur of a coon is long, soft, and blackish-brown. The tail is bushy with alternating rings of light and dark colored fur. A long, slender muzzle, erect ears, and a black stripe across the cheeks and eyes give the raccoon its familiar look.

Raccoons are found throughout Pennsylvania and most often near a water source. A raccoon will make a den almost any-

where it can find a hole or crevice. Most often you will find them in a hollow of a tree. The raccoon is almost always nocturnal. It spends most of the daylight hours sleeping off of the ground. They have an excellent sense of sight and smell. Most experts agree that they possess an acute sense of touch in their paws, which enables them to catch fast moving prey.

Raccoons are considered omnivores. They will eat vegetables, berries, insects, small mammals, fish, frogs, and eggs. They are opportunistic hunter/gatherers

and will eat anything they can find

Breeding occurs in January or February and a female will give birth to 3-5 young. The family group will stay together for several months after birth. The population of raccoons is steady and in some cases increasing in areas.

